

**VIRGINIA:**

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF MEDICINE**

**IN RE:        WILLIAM ALBRIGHT BURCH, III, M.D.  
                 License No.: 0101-241845**

**ORDER OF SUMMARY SUSPENSION**

Pursuant to § 54.1-2408.1 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended ("Code"), a quorum of the Virginia Board of Medicine ("Board") met on October 30, 2015, by telephone conference call after a good faith effort to convene a regular meeting of the Board failed. The purpose of the meeting was to receive and act upon information indicating that William Albright Burch, III, M.D., may have violated certain laws and regulations relating to the practice of medicine and surgery in the Commonwealth of Virginia, as more fully set forth in the Statement of Particulars, which is attached hereto and incorporated by reference herein.

WHEREUPON, pursuant to its authority under § 54.1-2408.1 of the Code, the Board concludes that a substantial danger to the public health or safety warrants this action and ORDERS that the license of William Albright Burch, III, M.D., to practice medicine in the Commonwealth of Virginia be, and hereby is, SUSPENDED. It is further ORDERED that a hearing will be convened forthwith to receive and act upon evidence in this cause, and that the Executive Director of the Board shall be authorized to execute this Order and all other documents, notices, and Orders on behalf of the Board necessary to bring this matter to hearing.

Upon entry of this Order of Summary Suspension, the license of William Albright Burch, III, M.D., will be recorded as suspended and no longer current.

Pursuant to § 54.1-2400.2 of the Code, the signed original of this Order shall remain in the custody of the Department of Health Professions as a public record and shall be made available for public inspection and copying upon request.

FOR THE BOARD

*For William L. Harp, M.D.*  
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William L. Harp, M.D.  
Executive Director  
Virginia Board of Medicine

ENTERED: 10 / 30 / 2015

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**IN RE:        WILLIAM ALBRIGHT BURCH, III, M.D.**  
**License No.: 0101-241845**

**STATEMENT OF PARTICULARS**

The Virginia Board of Medicine ("Board") alleges that:

1.        Dr. Burch may have violated a Consent Order of the Board, entered September 18, 2014, in that on or about on or about March 25, 2015, he was dismissed for noncompliance from the Virginia Health Practitioners' Monitoring Program ("HPMP"), which he had entered on or about October 17, 2014. Under the terms of the Consent Order, Dr. Burch was required to remain in HPMP and continue to comply fully with the terms of his contract(s), and any addenda thereto, until he successfully completed the program.

2.        Dr. Burch may be in violation of Section 54.1-2915.A(2) and (14) of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended ("Code"), in that he is impaired to practice medicine with reasonable skill and safety due to illness or substance abuse, as evidenced by the following:

- Dr. Burch has a history of abuse of addictive substances, including alcohol and cocaine, since at least 2012.
- By Consent Order entered September 18, 2014, the Board found that Dr. Burch was impaired to safely practice medicine, and ordered him to enter HPMP, which he did on October 17, 2014; however, on or about March 25, 2015, he was dismissed from the program for noncompliance. Such noncompliance included missed urine screens and screens with dilute samples, a February 2015 hair test that was positive for cocaine and methamphetamine, a February 2015 urine screen that was positive for the alcohol metabolites EtG and EtS, missed calls to the test line, and refusal to enter residential treatment as recommended by his HPMP case manager.
- Dr. Burch has a history of substance abuse that requires ongoing treatment and monitoring, and he is not being monitored currently.

3. Dr. Burch may have violated Section 54.1-2915.A(3), (13), (16), and (18) of the Code, a Consent Order of the Board entered September 18, 2014, and 18 VAC 85-20-26.C of the Board of Medicine General Regulations, in that between approximately October 18, 2014 and late December 2014, he authorized and/or directed staff at his Arlington OB/GYN practice to authorize (generally using a stamp of Dr. Burch's signature) prescriptions, although during that period he had been instructed by HPMP not to practice medicine, and under the terms of the Consent Order Dr. Burch was required to comply fully with HPMP. Dr. Burch's staff reported that the prescriptions they authorized pursuant to his instructions primarily were refills for prenatal vitamins or birth control pills; however, evidence also shows that a prescription for 30 dosage units of phentermine (C-IV) plus two refills was called into a pharmacy for Patient A on December 12, 2014, and a prescription for 30 dosage units of zolpidem (C-IV) plus at least one refill was called into a pharmacy for Patient B on December 23, 2014. Additionally, the aforementioned prescriptions for Patients A and B were not documented in their medical records at Dr. Burch's practice.

4. Dr. Burch may have violated Section 54.1-2915.A(3), (13), (16), and (18) of the Code and 18 VAC 85-20-90 of the Board of Medicine General Regulations, in that he prescribed controlled substances for weight reduction to Patients A and C, as noted below, without ordering or reviewing the results of an electrocardiogram within 90 days of the initiation of pharmacotherapy, reviewing laboratory work including testing of thyroid function, prescribing and recording a diet and exercise program, recording blood pressure and pulse within the first 30 days following the initiation of pharmacotherapy, and/or documenting continued progress toward achieving or maintaining a target weight, as

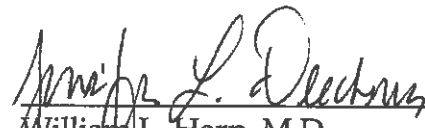
required by the Board's regulations.

- Patient A: phentermine on or about July 25, 2013; September 20, 2013; October 6, 2014, and/or December 12, 2014;
- Patient C: phentermine and/or Qsymia (phentermine and topiramate, C-IV) on or about April 10, 2014; June 9, 2014; July 7, 2014; August 26, 2014; and/or September 28, 2014.

5. Dr. Burch may have violated Sections 54.1-2405.A and 54.1-2915.A(3), (13), (16), and (18) of the Code, in that in or about late December 2014 he closed his Arlington OB/GYN practice without attempting to notify patients by mail and by publishing prior notice in a newspaper of general circulation within his practice area, including in such notice information on obtaining copies of patient records, as required by the Code.

Please see Attachment I for the identity of the patients listed above.

FOR THE BOARD

*for*   
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William L. Harp, M.D.  
Executive Director  
Virginia Board of Medicine

DATE: 10/30/2015